

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014

Once Again, MoDOT Employees' Generosity Shines

Central
Office

For the seventh year in a row, MoDOT raised more money for the State Employees Charitable Campaign than any other state agency, showing once again the caring spirit behind Team MoDOT.

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition



MoDOT and other top organizations attended the ceremony at the Capitol. Left to right: Ann Bax, United Way of Central Missouri, Marylyn DeFeo, Samaritan Center, Karla Hogg, Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations, Kelly Smith, River City Habitat for Humanity, Brenda Haslag, Manager of the State Charitable Campaign, Jennifer Jorgensen, MoDOT, Michelle Branson, Office of Administration, Kelly Mertens, MoDOT, Richard Schomaker, MoDOT, Governor Jay Nixon, Dawn Haslag, MoDOT, Ed Hassinger, MoDOT, Barb Shimmens, Office of Administration and Sheila Wilson, Dept. of Revenue.

donations were – Samaritan Center (Jefferson City), Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, United Way of Central Missouri, Special Olympics, Missouri 10-33 Benevolent Fund, Rape and Abuse Crisis Services and the Human Society of Missouri.

MoDOT employees raised \$172,260 for the charitable campaign, a nearly five percent increase from last year's donation, and more than \$50,000 above the next highest giving agency.

On April 28, the MoDOT charitable campaign leaders, Dawn Haslag, Kelly Mertens, Jennifer Jorgensen and Richard Schomaker, participated in a recognition ceremony at the Capitol with Governor Nixon. Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger also attended.

"Every year, I am more and more impressed with the generosity of our employees, and how much they care about those less fortunate than them," said Director Dave Nichols.

Thanks to the campaign leaders for working so hard and doing a great job with all the fundraising events, and to everyone who donated to the campaign.

Here are some interesting facts about the campaign:

- In total, state employees donated \$1,059,000.
- State employees have donated over \$26 million during the past 29 years.
- This is the 13th year the campaign has exceeded \$1 million, and the 10th consecutive year.
- A few of the top individual or federations receiving the largest

MoDOT Joins Missouri State Employee Recognition Week Celebrations

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Missouri's annual State Employee Recognition Week, May 26-30, 2014, will honor the dedication and commitment of state employees.

Employees based in and around the Capital City are able to take part in State Employee Recognition Day activities on Thurs., May 29.



A special event will be held on the Capitol lawn in Jefferson City from 11 am to 2 pm on Thursday, May 29 (Rain location – Truman Building). The theme of the event is Missouri State Employees – Missouri's Pride. The State Office of Administration is working with area businesses to provide free refreshments, prizes and discounts. ALL state employees are entered in a special statewide drawing for prizes. MoDOT will set up a table to offer maps, child passenger safety information, and Amtrak will conduct a drawing for tickets.

Thomas Wilkerson, a senior GIS specialist in Central Office Transportation Planning, will help open the festivities by singing, "God Bless America."

In addition to the events and surprises taking place in divisions and districts, several businesses have special offers to recognize and thank public servants year round. Visit <http://serd.mo.gov/> and click on Special Offers to learn about discounts offered by sports teams, amusement parks and more! Watch for more information on the special themes for each day of State Employee Recognition Week in the next issue of Connections!

Employee Innovation Improves Winter Wrap-Up

Maintenance

by Jim Dickson

Before snow fighting equipment gets stored, there's maintenance to do so it's ready to go when the next snowflake falls. And thanks to some ingenious Kansas City District employees, MoDOT has an innovation to get the job done easier and safer.

The Drag Chain Oiler is a battery-operated pump and reservoir system mounted on a dolly that lubricates the drag chain on cinder beds with minimal waste. The adjustable spray arms direct the lubricant to just the right spot, and make it look like something out of Star Wars.

Watch it in action at: <http://youtu.be/W-D9j1-ZBTk>

Read more details about this innovation at: [Drag Chain Oiler Summary](#) (active employees only).



The drag chain oiler reduces replacement and repair costs and is environmentally friendly.

100 Miles MoDOT Style!

Join the friendly fitness competition between the MoDOT offices (Districts and Central Office) to see who can log the most miles. The team with the most miles by December 31, 2014, wins a special plaque and bragging rights for the year! Participants from the winning team also get their name put in a drawing for St Louis Blues Tickets for next season!



Go to www.100MissouriMiles.com and create an account. After you've logged in, select the "Groups" tab at the top of the page. Enter "MoDOT" as the keyword and select your District or the Central Office team. Join your respective group, get active, then log your miles on the website from any computer or device. Get started today!

For more information contact Human Resources,

Amanda.Henley@modot.mo.gov or Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov.

Cyclists Hit Missouri Roadways

by Tammy Wallace

Last week, Rachael Ruhlen and her father, David Ruhlen, began an ambitious journey to visit and camp at 40 Missouri state parks over the course of the summer. It's ambitious because they will be traveling solely by bicycle.



Rachael Ruhlen and David Ruhlen are bicycling around the state this summer visiting 40 Missouri state parks.

Rachel, a research professor at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, lives in Columbia, and her Father in Lawrence, Kansas. Since Rachel has been active in the bicycle and pedestrian community for several years, she was recently a VIP guest at Governor Nixon's kick off to this year's 100 Missouri Miles challenge.

To make the most of their travels, the pair invites anyone who has a love of cycling and camping to join them on the various legs of the journey. To share their experience, a complete travel itinerary, maps, daily updates, photos, and obscure facts about the areas they visit can all be found on their website and Facebook. Make plans to meet up with them along the way, or just follow their journey through the state.

The Department of Natural Resources is sponsoring the trip, which began May 1 in Columbia, and should wrap up June 15.

Website - <http://www.crazyguyonabike.com>
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/40MissouriStateParks>

Did you know that MoDOT has a bicycle and pedestrian program? Because we value bicycle and pedestrian travel, MoDOT works with planning partners to create transportation facilities that work for all users. MoDOT accommodates bicyclists and pedestrians by developing facility designs for nonmotorists on new projects, and integrating nonmotorized travel into our existing system. To find out more on MoDOT's bicycle and pedestrian program, visit the website - http://www.modot.org/othertransportation/bike_ped/Bikepedintro.htm.

The Blog is Back, Jack!

by Patrick Wood

The blog is back? Did we hop into a time machine and return to 2000? Sadly, time-travel technology doesn't exist yet, but get ready for retro because MoDOT is blogging again!



Blogs might not be all the rage they once were, but a new look and regular posts makes the MoDOT blog a great place for the department to share its story. The blog focuses on a full range of transportation topics, but it presents information with a casual, more personal tone and perspective. Take a moment today to look at the new content, save it to your bookmarks and share with friends on Facebook and Twitter.

Not sure where to find MoDOT's blog? Go to www.modotblog.blogspot.com. You can also find a link to the blog by going to the MoDOT website and click on the B in the orange square in the upper right of the main page.

If you have ideas for blog content, send them to Patrick.Wood@modot.mo.gov.

Highway Safety Hero Nominations Sought

by Kelly Jackson

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is accepting nominations for individuals, organizations and events to be recognized for efforts to promote safe driving.

There are four statewide awards and two awards for each of the seven Coalition regions. The statewide awards include:

- the Lay Down the Law Award, recognizing an individual or a group in law enforcement
- the Tempe Humphrey Award, recognizing an individual or group who have focused efforts on our younger drivers
- the Arrive Alive Award, recognizing an individual or group for their leadership and dedication to reducing fatalities
- the "Show Me Safety" Award, recognizing an individual or group for an event
- the regional awards, include the Arrive Alive Award and the "Show-Me Safety" Award

Details about the awards and nomination forms can be found at www.savemolives.com. Nominations are due by June 30, 2014. Five individuals with an interest in transportation safety have been selected to judge the awards.

Regional awards will be judged by the regional coalitions or independent judges they choose. The winners will be recognized at the 2014 Blueprint to Save More Lives Conference in St. Louis at the end of September. Award winners and those who nominate them will be notified in August.

For more information, please call Marisa Ellison at 573-248-2502 or email marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov.



Safety Campaigns

by Kelly Jackson

Watch for Motorcycles – May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

Warm weather means enjoying the beautiful outdoors, and motorcyclists across the state are doing just that. As they're tuning those engines and polishing that chrome, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants to remind motorists and motorcyclists alike to "Watch for Motorcycles" in order to help prevent motorcycle crashes, deaths and injuries on Missouri's roadways.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers the following tips to drivers on how to prevent a fatal crash with a motorcycle:

- Although a motorcycle is a small vehicle, the operator still has the same rights of the road as any other motorist. Allow the motorcycle the full width of a lane at all times.
- Always signal when changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Check all mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles before changing lanes or merging with traffic, especially at intersections.
- Never drive distracted or impaired.

Motorcyclists can increase their safety by following these steps:

- Wear a DOT-compliant helmet and other protective gear.
- Obey all traffic laws and be properly licensed and trained.
- Wear brightly colored clothes and reflective tape to increase visibility.
- Ride in the middle of the lane where you will be more visible to drivers.
- Never ride distracted or impaired.



Very often, drivers of cars and trucks don't see motorcycles until the last second, or sometimes not at all. Motorcycle operators have to anticipate the moves of other drivers and be extra cautious of road conditions and debris.

Motorcycle experts recommend motorcyclists also complete some type of training before getting out on the road. There are 29 training locations in Missouri. You can find the one nearest you at www.mmisp.org.

Don't Let One Moment Define You Youth alcohol awareness campaign encourages smart choices

Teens and young adults have a full life ahead of them. They are tomorrow’s dreamers and their choices are many. All too often senseless drinking and the choice to get behind the wheel can change those dreams forever. At that time in their lives, one moment can define them as an athlete, a musician, a writer, or a killer. Who will they become?

In the last three years, there were 69 fatal crashes and 208 disabling injury crashes involving an impaired driver under the age of 21. As a result of a young person making the wrong choice, 85 people died and 322 were seriously injured in these crashes.

Law enforcement will be on the lookout for underage impaired driving through mid-May with a high visibility enforcement campaign. Timing of the campaign will coincide with statewide prom and graduation dates, which are often when teens and young adults consume alcohol.

Missouri has a Zero Tolerance Law. If you are under 21, your license will be suspended if you’re caught driving with even a trace of alcohol in your system. Consequences of drunk driving include jail time, the loss of driver licenses, or being sentenced to use ignition interlocks. Other financial hits include higher insurance rates, attorney fees, and court costs. In the worst cases, the underage driver becomes a killer.

For more information: <http://www.savemolives.com/impaired-driving.html>.



Click above to check out one of videos from the new youth alcohol awareness campaign.

Fatality Update



What's Happening



Chat With the Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post on staying on course and focusing on safety - [Chat With the Chief](#).



Top Honors for MoDOT's Kansas City District Employee

Kansas City Maintenance Worker David Winship was honored in April as the State Employee of the Month for life-saving actions during winter snow removal operations. He, his wife and his entire team attended a ceremony at the State Capitol with Governor Jay Nixon.

Winship also received a Meritorious Service Award at the District's spring employee meetings. Click to read more about his brave actions this past winter on [Kansas City's Connections page](#).

MPERS Board of Trustees Election April 30-May 22

The MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees. MoDOT and MSHP each have an active employee representative and a retiree representative serving on the Board who is nominated and elected by their respective voting and nominating group.



This election is to fill the following four member-elected positions on the Board: 1) active MoDOT employee; 2) active MSHP employee; 3) MoDOT retiree; and 4) MSHP retiree. Their four-year term on the Board will start July 1, 2014, and end June 30, 2018.

Online Voting Period is April 30-May 22!

This year's voting is available only online. Click here to cast your vote - [VOTE!](#)



Employee Advisory Council Minutes

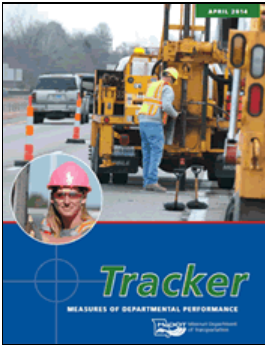
Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's March meeting have been posted on the EAC website at http://wwwwi/intranet/eac/documents/March_2014.pdf (*active employees only*).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



May Wellness Newsletter

Coventry's wellness newsletter for May focuses on asthma and allergies. Check out the newsletter on the Central Office page of Connections to learn more about asthma and allergies, including tools and resources that can help you manage these conditions - [Central Office page](#).



Tracker Available

The newest edition of Tracker covering the first quarter of calendar year 2014 is available on the website.

The first quarter Tracker, Tracker Supplement and Focal Point (on the topic of roads and bridges) will be reviewed during the statewide meeting on May 21.

Links to Tracker and the Tracker Supplement can be found on SharePoint - <http://sharepoint/Tracker/SitePages/Home.aspx> (*active employees only*). Tracker Focal Point will be added soon. The Tracker publication can also be found on MoDOT's website - modot.org.



Truman Holiday

The state of Missouri has been observing May 8 as a holiday to honor our 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, since 1949. Truman is the only president from the great state of Missouri where he lived in Independence, and is memorialized at the Harry S. Truman Library.



Missouri State Employees Day at the K

Don't forget that many organizations are offering specials to state employees as part of State Employee Recognition Week. One of those is special prices on Royals tickets when they take on the Angels June 28 - [Day at the K](#).

Check out all the special rates and discounts offered, some continue through summer into the fall - [Employee Discounts](#).

May Service Anniversaries

35 Years

Robby D. Blair - NW
James Patrick Muehlbach - NW

30 Years

Danny E. Gramenz - NW
Charles R. Roach - NW

20 Years Continued

Dennis Keith Buckley - SW
Timothy R. Bundgard - SW
Tommy J. Tate - SW
Darren E. Condron - SW
Scott A. McKee - SW

10 Years Continued

Michael M. Hagerty - NE
Clark E. Thomas - KC
Ronald Dean Reynolds - KC
Brady Mac Watson - KC
Donald R. Howlett - CD

Anthony W. Morrall - NE
Vincent T. Coleman - SL
Gregory J. Horn - SL
Mark Anthony Throener - SW
Kenneth R. Layman - SW
April L. Brock - SE
David S. Blalock - SE
David B. Nichols - CO

25 Years

Jeffery S. Pittman - NW
William A. Gimse - NW
Troy Douglas Slagle - NW
Jason A. Miller - NE
Terry L. Hancock - NE
John William Casey - KC
Preston Virgil Drace - CD
Allen Joseph Frank - CD
Coleen Rose Welter - CD
John Louis Kuhlman - CD
Ralph L. Mullen - SL
Dennis R. Roethemeier - SW
Charles Robinson - SE
Jackie D. Vermillion - SE
Jeffery A. Wachter - SE
Curtis Lane Dowden - SE
Kevin Joseph Raithel - CO
Melissa R. Lackman - CO
Timothy M. Chojnacki - CO

20 Years

Michael J. Lewis - NW
Martin W. Liles - NW
Stephen D. Miller - NW
Karen M. Huber - NW
Robert J. Manzke - NE
Dana B. Robinson - NE
Rhonda L. Marsden - NE
Holly B. Thronson - NE
Timothy A. Hays - NE
Jeffery J. Kiser - NE
Todd Elliott Miller - KC
William B. Barrows - KC
Michael W. Debrot - KC
Daniel John Hastings - KC
Glen D. Cary - CD
Kimberly D. Hilburn-Thomas - CD
Christopher Joseph Feeler - CD
Donald L. Boulware - CD
Wayne H. Henderson - CD
Karen D. Yeomans - SL
Robert Glenn Blevins - SW
Glenn D. Haines - SW
Aaron J. Cate - SW
Gary E. Jones - SW
Curt R. Sill - SW

Chad E. Zickefoose - SW
Kerry W. Hodgson - SW
Richard E. Powell - SE
Randall E. Sutton - SE
Gary R. Copeland - SE
Christian B. Rutledge - SE
Todd Lee Bennett - CO
Herman L. Harris - CO
John P. Miller - CO
Lisa Ann Vieth - CO
Curtis D. Evers - CO

15 Years

Nicole Lynn Steele - NW
Brian C. O'Neal - NW
Leonard J. Wilmes - NW
Donald B. Medsker - NW
Scott J. Nett - NW
Cindy L. Martin - NE
Carroll Dean Hoffman - NE
Stacey Anne Byrn - NE
Gloria Jeanette Gillespie - KC
Christopher Lee Williams - KC
Robert James Hargrave - KC
Jesse J. Skinner - KC
Justin L. Anderson - KC
Matthew Douglas Killion - KC
Scott R. Banes - KC
Roger L. McCallister - CD
Richard Wayne Stewart - SL
Julianne E. Dorenkamp - SL
Justin A. Wolf - SL
David R. Bauer - SL
Wesley J. Akins - SL
Larry J. Nanneman - SW
Donald B. Griпка - SW
Gregory D. Van Horn - SE
Akera L. Nelson - SE
Warren D. Rainey - SE
Austin D. Emory - SE
Leslie Philip Snorgrass - SE
Gary D. Guess - SE
Chad D. Green - CO
Alexa Buitrago Mitchell - CO
Darren L. Kempker - CO

10 Years

Johnathan Amis Riley - NW
Phillip E. Standley - NW
Jordan T. Delameter - NW
Cody R. Moyers - NW
Loyde Dean Anderson - NW
Eric Ryan Ramsey - NW
Terry R. Stiens - NW
John E. Campbell - NW
Brian J. Untiedt - NE

Jeremiah J. Werdehausen - CD
Terry R. Shanks - CD
Nikolas E. Schaffner - CD
Jeffery P. Lappe - SL
Grahm E. Zieba - SL
Steven A. Clemons - SL
Herberto F. Garcia - SL
Steve Alan Cole - SL
Aaron J. Groff - SL
Scott Dale Miller - SW
Shane A. Dunham - SW
Caleb Michael Harris - SW
Gregory R. Chapman - SW
Richard A. Vangennip - SE
Scot A. Shockley - SE
Paul M. Kincaid - SE
Richard D. Kern - SE
Bruce E. Bales - SE
Angelia Y. Jones - SE
Jennifer L. Jorgensen - CO
Scott Matthew Nichols - CO
Allison Kristine Kuebler - CO

5 Years

Billy C. Goble - NW
Michael Wayne Marriott - NW
Carla Elizabeth Glosemeyer - NE
Brian Wayne Hortness - NE
Daniel L. Schwartz - NE
Kent A. Strube - NE
Scott J. Yates - NE
Casey D. Morris - NE
Edward Lewis Wheeler - NE
Griffin Thomas Smith - KC
Andrew T. Bolling - KC
Ryan Thomas Hale - KC
Thomas M. Holland - CD
Douglas K. Barnum - CD
Travis M. Gruenloh - CD
Darrin Wayne Johnson - CD
William Christopher Dame - CD
Thomas W. Huhmann - CD
Jeremy M. Romine - CD
Derrick E. Wigger - CD
Patrick E. Bowman - SL
Kurt J. Stern - SL
Jay F. Johnson - SL
Casey L. Carnahan - SL
Brandon Lee Jones - SL
Andrew David Nelson - SW
Christopher S. Crocker - SE
Charles C. Mayo - SE
Gregg Brandon Miller - SE
Lori K. Bronson - CO
Paul T. Denkler - CO
Esther E. Moten - CO

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014



- Home
- Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

Earth Day Celebration

Earth Day 2014 was held on April 25 on the lawn of the Missouri State Capitol. This year's celebration focused on litter prevention and the No MORE Trash! Bash. If you would like to learn more about helping to keep Missouri clean, visit the website - [No MORE Trash](#). To view all of the photos from the event, visit MoDOT's flickr site - [Earth Day](#).



Senior Information Systems Technologist Rhonda Thompson puts a stamp on school children's hands after reciting the No MORE Trash! pledge. During the Earth Day festivities on the Capitol grounds, kids signed their name on the paper pledging to keep their homes, school and town clean of trash.



Senior Environmental Specialist Nathan Muenks helps school children with a bean bag toss game about storm water quality at the annual Earth Day festivities at the Capitol.

May Wellness - Breath Easier

Spring is here! If you're among the millions of people who suffer from seasonal allergies, you'll be greeting it with an itchy nose and watery eyes.

For those who also suffer from asthma, seasonal allergies can affect the airways in the lungs with symptoms ranging from mild to serious or even life threatening.

The good news is that it can be controlled and you can find relief from your symptoms and breathe easier.

May is Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. Take steps this month to work with your doctor to create an action plan to keep your asthma and allergies under control. Read more in this month's wellness newsletter - [Wellness](#).



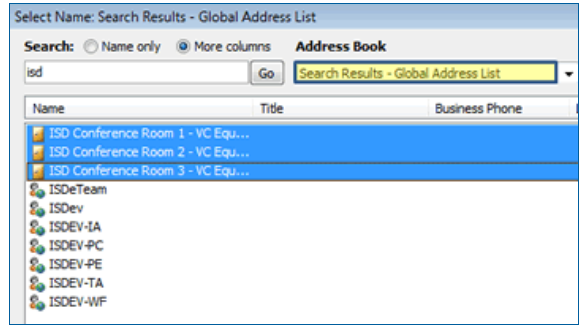
Central Office Happenings



Commission Minutes Available on SharePoint

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting minutes are now available on the Commission Secretary's Office SharePoint site. When the Commission meeting minutes are approved and certified, they are added to the Commission Meeting Minutes SharePoint site both as a whole and as a summary. Through the site you can view the meeting minutes and the meeting minute summaries - [Commission Minutes \(active employees only\)](#).

If you have any questions contact Pamela Harlan, secretary to the commission at pamela.harlan@modot.mo.gov or 573-751-3704.



Reserve Conference Rooms With Outlook

All conference room reservations have been moved from Lotus Notes to Outlook. Follow the link for instructions on how to find and reserve rooms - [How to Find and Reserve Conference Rooms](#).

Upcoming Mee Zone Events

Exercise – Some is Better Than None

May 20
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Central Office Human Resources Training Room B
601 West Main, Jefferson City
By Dr. Stephen Ball

Dr. Stephen Ball, University of Missouri Extension, will discuss the science behind exercise, from what works to “myth busters” that don't work, and will provide examples of how to get started with an exercise program. He will also demonstrate a few easy exercises that you can



even do while on the job.

Dr. Ball is an exercise physiologist and an associate professor at the University of Missouri. He specializes in Fitness and Wellness and Body Composition Research, and he teaches Nutrition and Exercise Physiology.

Enroll in the class using the [LMS Student Center Sign On link](#) (*active employees only*). Class #92000-WL. Video conference is available, so the class is open to all employees in the state.

Engineering for Non-Engineers - Two Classes Now Available!

June 4 and June 5
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Construction & Materials Lab, Room 201
1617 Missouri Blvd., Jefferson City
By Charlie Nemmers of the University of Missouri

This class covers the fundamentals of transportation engineering, highway and bridge design, construction, operations and maintenance. The class is fun, interactive and easy to understand--perfect for those who are not engineers, but who work with engineers regularly.

Charlie Nemmers is a professional engineer currently serving as director of the Transportation Infrastructure Center at the University. He also leads the research program for a major U.S. corporation in the field of civil infrastructure. He has been conducting this training with MoDOT (and many other organizations) for over 10 years. Read more - [Charlie Nemmers](#).

Enroll in the class using the [LMS Student Center Sign On link](#) (*active employees only*). Class #24208 (be sure to select which date).

For questions about Mee Zone Events, contact Kristen Bagwill - Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov or (573) 751-3941.

See what’s happening on the [Mee Zone Blog!](#) (*active employees only*).

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014

Northwest District

- Home
- Central Office
- Districts
 - Northwest
 - Northeast
 - Kansas City
 - Central
 - St. Louis
 - Southwest
 - Southeast

Spring Meetings

It's that time of year again and the Northwest District, like all others around the state, have been out for spring meetings. Six meetings were scheduled across the district - one in each maintenance superintendent's area, plus one at the district office. At the time of publication, one meeting is in progress with only one remaining.

From Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's discussion at the Trenton meeting to District Engineer Don Wichern's presentation at the rest, the main messages were to thank employees for their work during winter operations; the Revive, Recover and Restore message; emphasizing quality, safety and taking care of each other while we take care of the roads; and the three points that MoDOT will continue to work on: taking care of the system the best we can as long as we can with what we have, outstanding customer service and safety.

Although Ed wasn't able to make it to each meeting, a video of him, Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey and Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker covering some of the messages was shown. Question and answer sessions as well as informal one-on-one discussions were also key at each meeting.

Also discussed were upcoming projects in each area, PPE requirements, incidents, MEE Zone, medical plan changes, MoDOT Now and Innovations.

A suggestion box was at each meeting for ideas about different things we can do in the district for employee recognition week. If you have an idea, please contact Human Resources Specialist Britney Richardson.

If you weren't able to attend a meeting, you can view the PowerPoint presentation used at the meetings at [Virtual Spring Meeting](#) (link only works for current employees).

- Archives
- Print Page
- Print Entire Edition



District Engineer Don Wichern took questions from the group during his portion of the meeting at the Trenton maintenance facility.



Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger presented to the employees gathered at the Trenton maintenance facility.



District Safety and Health Manager Diane Sipes, District Engineer Don Wichern and Chillicothe Maintenance Supervisor Todd Rounkles recognized and congratulated the Chillicothe Maintenance Team for having zero safety incidents in 2013!



Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy reviewed medical plan changes, the MEE Zone and Employee Recognition Week at the Chillicothe meeting.

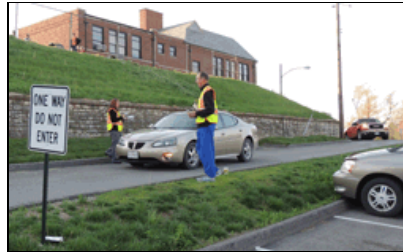
Thanks from Northwest Missouri

This thank you was posted on our district Twitter page, but the message applies to our efforts statewide and we wanted to share it with all of you:

"Good to see various message board reminders about planting season and farm implements again this year. #TIM "



Buckle Up For Baseball!



Northwest Regional Coalition for Roadway Safety member Ray Staggs and a co-worker from Heartland Hospital participated in a seat belt check at one of the two parking lot entrances at Benton High School. Customer Service Representative Lisa Kellison and Coalition member Stephanie Malita checked seat belts at the other entrance.

This summer the Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety is a sponsor of St. Joseph Mustangs. There will be informational tables at four games, public address announcements and on-field games to promote roadway safety.

As part of the sponsorship, the Coalition was given 250 tickets to distribute. To give away the tickets, members of the Coalition conducted a surprise seat belt check at the only St. Joseph high school that participated in this past year's Battle of the Belt. Every seat-belted driver and passenger coming into the Benton High School parking lot on the morning of May 6 received tickets good for any St. Joseph Mustangs game this season.

Of the 688 drivers and passengers that came into the school parking lots, 485 were wearing a seat belt. That's 70 percent buckled up! Way to go Benton!

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014

Home
Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

Northeast District

Emergency Repair a Success with Quick Teamwork!



Bross Construction repaired eastbound U.S. 36 just east of Macon over the last few weeks after it was discovered some significant settling had occurred with a culvert, leaving a dip in the road.

When a dip was discovered in the eastbound passing lane of U.S. 36 just east of Macon last winter, MoDOT monitored the area and determined in April that the dip, which had grown more significant over the winter, needed repairs.

Assistant District Engineer Kevin James said, "Our maintenance forces stepped up to the plate quickly to set up the lane drop and made preparation for an emergency contract."

Within a few weeks, the project was designed, let and awarded.

"Our design team worked closely with our construction staff to quickly get the plans ready for letting," Kevin said.

Unfortunately, the district had to shift other projects into later years to free up funds for this emergency repair.

Notifying the public was another key component of the project success.

Overall, Kevin is very pleased with the outcome. "Within only a few weeks, we had the highway back open to the drivers, and we appreciated all our employees' teamwork," he added.

Around the District...



Jody Geisendorfer, assistant maintenance supervisor at Palmyra maintenance, and Adam Thompson, senior maintenance worker at Palmyra, gave a presentation on Career Day at Marion County R-II School.



Keith Killen, project manager, and Marisa Christy-Kerns, senior customer relations specialist, attended the Macon County 8th Grade Business Fair on April 25 and talked with students about the different career areas within MoDOT.



Jonathan Bruner, intermediate traffic studies specialist, and Marisa Christy-Kerns, senior customer relations specialist, spoke to families at the Healthy Community Day event held at the Randolph County YMCA on April 26.



Stacy Corbin, CPS technician from the Macon County Health Department, is shown installing a car seat for a mother at the car seat event held by the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety and the Shelby County Food Pantry on May 2 in Shelbyville.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Kansas City
District

Kansas City Crew Member Earns Employee of Month and Meritorious Service Award

Kansas City was proud to honor Senior Maintenance Worker David Winship with a meritorious service award at the recent spring employee meetings. The award was given for acts above and beyond the call of duty to save a motorist. In addition, he was also named the State Employee of the Month for February.

For the second time in five years, Winship found himself in a unique position to do a little more than usual to help a motorist in need.

While treating bridges with salt in the Kansas City area during the winter storm Saturday, Dec. 21, Winship had just driven across the U.S. Highway 69 bridge over southbound Interstate 29 in Clay County around 3 p.m., and he saw smoke rising over the side of the guardrail. He pulled his snowplow over to investigate and discovered a smoking vehicle down the embankment resting on its driver side, against some trees. No emergency vehicles were on scene yet, and as Winship approached the vehicle, he could hear someone yelling for help from inside the vehicle.

After calling 911, Winship determined he had to get the motorist out of the smoking vehicle, but because the doors were locked and the car was on its side, decided he had to get creative. Luckily, the vehicle was a convertible and Winship had a pocket knife with him which he used to cut a slit in the top. He then cut a hole large enough to pull the motorist from her vehicle with the help of another concerned motorist who pulled over to help.

Emergency responders soon arrived at the scene.

This is the second Meritorious Safety Award for Winship. While on the job in 2009, he also helped save another motorist's life when after witnessing the vehicle crash, determined the motorist was in a diabetic attack and knew enough to help him by putting candy in his mouth to help bring him around.



David, center, attended a ceremony and luncheon for Employee of the Month at the state capitol last month with his team and family.



David received a Meritorious Service Award at the Spring Employee Meetings from Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger.

MoDOT Employee Stops Traffic to Save Pedestrian

It was a rainy morning on Wednesday, April 2, when MoDOT Kansas City District Traffic Operations Supervisor Vernon Koch found himself in a unique position to put his first aid training to work and help a hurt pedestrian.

Koch, a 26-year department veteran, was in downtown Kansas City on his way to a meeting that wet morning. He had parked the MoDOT vehicle to walk to City Hall and was heading to the crosswalk at the intersection of 11th and Oak when he saw a pedestrian get struck by a vehicle. After bouncing up on the car's hood, she ended up striking her head on the pavement and resting in front of the vehicle. Koch rushed to her aid, and ensured another bystander was calling 911. He put his first aid training to use by checking her pulse and visually assessing her injuries. He kept the woman talking while checking her other vital signs and asked her questions so she would stay awake until the paramedics came. He also worked with the other pedestrians to keep her dry with umbrellas. The



ambulance arrived on scene shortly thereafter and although she did suffer a concussion and other injuries, she recovered and is back at work.

When asked about his experience, Koch said, “I was remarkably calm when it happened and knew what to do thanks to all the first aid and CPR training we’ve had here at MoDOT.”

“Vernon is another wonderful example of the high caliber of employees we have working here in Kansas City,” District Engineer Dan Niec said. “We have so many ordinary people just like you and me who do extraordinary things. You just never know when these types of opportunities will present themselves, so it’s always better to be prepared like Vernon.”

News Conference Announces Cinco de Mayo Impaired Driving Crackdown

Law enforcement officers and prosecutors from throughout the Northland gathered April 30 at the Platte County Resource Center near KCI for a news conference announcing a concerted crackdown aimed at impaired drivers, particularly young and under-age drinkers. The scaled-up enforcement campaign coincided with the Cinco de Mayo holiday weekend, a time when celebrants may make poor choices when leaving a party or bar.

Members of the Northland Traffic Safety Task Force stood with Annette Murray, who spoke of her personal pain in losing her sister, brother-in-law and niece in two separate drunk-driving crashes. Also speaking were Platte County Prosecuting Attorney Eric G. Zahnd and Platte County Sheriff Mark S. Owen.

Task Force members included: Missouri State Highway Patrol; Clay County Prosecuting Attorney’s office; Clay County Sheriff; Platte County Prosecuting Attorney’s office; Platte County Sheriff; Excelsior Springs Police; Platte City Police; Platte Woods Police; Pleasant Valley Police; Kearney Police; Gladstone Police; North Kansas City Police; Riverside Police; Liberty Police; Smithville Police; Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety; MoDOT; and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In the last three years, there were 69 fatal crashes and 208 disabling injury crashes involving an impaired driver under the age of 21. As a result of a young person making the wrong choice, 85 people died and 322 were seriously injured in these crashes.

Missouri has a Zero Tolerance Law. If you are under 21, your license will be suspended if you’re caught driving with even a trace of alcohol in your system. Consequences of drunk driving include jail time, the loss of driver licenses, or being sentenced to use ignition interlocks.





Set Your Sight on MoDOT's Annual BIG TRUCK Night

Thursday, May 15

4:30 to 7 p.m.

at the Missouri Department of Transportation
Kansas City District Office
600 NE Colbern Rd, Lee's Summit MO

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Central District

District Helps Solve Customer's Erosion Problem

The Central District recently helped a customer from Crawford County combat an erosion issue caused by drainage from MoDOT right of way.

A crew from the Cuba maintenance shed, consisting of crew leaders Jared Housewright and Kirk Bouse and crew members Chris Lickliger, Susan Ringeisen, Felipe Ortega and Cheryl Dean, filled in the eroded area and placed rock so that much of the energy was removed from the drainage when it crosses onto the customer's property.

"I spoke with the customer afterward and he was very pleased with the structure put into place," said Area Engineer Preston Kramer. "He also let us know how pleased he was with the timeliness of our response."



Central District Senior Maintenance Worker Susan Ringeisen examines the constructed solution to a drainage concern voiced by a customer in Crawford County near the West Sullivan area.

Around the District



Striping operations are in full swing on state routes and interstates around the Central District. Here's a photo sent to us by Northeast District Engineer Paula Gough of Central District strippers in action.



Central District employees gathered to offer well wishes to Senior Construction Technician Jerry Poulin (left), who retired after 22 years of service to MoDOT. Jerry is posing with his service plaque and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner (right). Jerry, we wish you happiness in the future, and we thank you for your years of service to the citizens of Missouri. You will be missed!



Buckle Bear (a.k.a. Central District Customer Service Representative Janis Geick) and Senior Traffic Technician Dianna Johnson, along with Gilbert Flores and Eric Kaiser from the Jefferson City Maintenance facility dropped by the Special Learning Center in Jefferson City. The group showed the kids some of MoDOT's heavy equipment, including a mower and a loader. Buckle Bear posed for pictures with the kids and Johnson, Flores and Kaiser answered all of the kids' questions about the heavy equipment and life at MoDOT.

For more info

Sally Oxenhandler
Customer Relations Manager
Central District
573-522-3375
Sally.Oxenhandler@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

St. Louis
District

May 7, 2014

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives
Print Page
Print Entire Edition

Delighting Customers With Additional Help

by Marisa Ellison

Many of us have encountered the "other duties as assigned" experience throughout our careers, and most of the time, these additional duties are done out of necessity to help out other areas of business during crunch times.

Crunch time in customer service is described as the time when all of the phone lines are tied up with assisting customers, and calls continue to come in. The calls then go into a holding queue, also known as the "bucket," until the next customer service phone line becomes available. "Crunch time" hit the St. Louis TMC and customer service last year, and they sought help from employees in other districts. As a result, all of the customer service representatives across the state received calls from the bucket.

"What this meant is that other customer service representatives throughout the state, most not familiar at all with the St. Louis District highway system, were taking a lot of calls from our area," said Brian Umfleet, traffic operations engineer who oversees the Transportation Management Center in St. Louis. He noted that while these representatives handled customers like the professionals they are, "we still needed help."

It is a statewide goal for each district to answer 88 percent of their calls.

"After implementation of the bucket and completion of our reorganization, we had a major gap in answering our own customer calls," explained Assistant District Engineer Tom Blair, who has been instrumental in the oversight of customer service since implementation of the bucket system.

Last fall, about a dozen clerks, office assistants, and technicians were asked to help answer the customer service calls for St. Louis, and the success has been significant.

The St. Louis backup customer service representatives are:



Paula Fuhro, senior office assistant, assists a customer over the phone with checking the traveler information map.

Donna Fissell	Sr. Traffic Technician
Paula Fuhro	Sr. Office Assistant
Deborah Hackmann	Sr. Office Assistant
Carrie Kooman	Construction Project Office Assistant
Mary Krummel	Construction Project Office Assistant
Mindy Lawrence	Construction Project Office Assistant
Carolyn "Sam" Lewis	Construction Project Office Assistant
Magdalena Marsden	Construction Project Office Assistant
Charlotte Stewart	Construction Project Office Assistant
Tania Thomas	Executive Assistant
Oni Walker	Sr. Office Assistant

"It's becoming easier to know what to ask for when I get a customer call, but I don't always get it right, since it's not something I do all the time," said Carolyn "Sam" Lewis, construction project office assistant.

She and her colleagues are continuing to get acclimated to answering the customer service phone lines. While the number of calls answered within the district has increased, they are focused on providing good customer service to all customers, including employees.

Umfleet echoed Lewis' comment.

"So next the time you get a call from customer service, please remember it may be coming from one of our backups, and they are still working to become familiar with all the resources available to them," he said.

"Since our backups have been logging in an average of four hours per week in November, we have gone from answering an average of 77 percent of our own district customer calls to 94 percent. We are so appreciative that these employees have taken to heart the importance of providing outstanding customer service and that it's really everyone's job to do so," said Blair.

SL Maintenance and Work Zone Safety Reap Windfall From Innovations Challenge

by Shaunda White

Three teams from the St. Louis District made it to the best of the best in the Innovations Challenge Statewide Showcase in Springfield. Two of the teams also received \$10,000 checks for their innovation submissions. The district will use the \$20,000 on bridge maintenance and work zone safety.

Mark Croarkin, district bridge engineer, was the top statewide winner in the project category and received a \$10,000 check for his LiDar Vertical Clearance submission.

"Maintaining an accurate record of minimum clearances for each bridge throughout the district has always been a challenge. The process can cost up to \$1000 an hour for personnel and fuel, and can be a very dangerous job to accomplish on the interstates when high speed vehicles are zooming by," said Croarkin.

His innovation project promotes the use of a low-bid contract for a truck mounted LiDar device which instantly measures three or more interstate lanes with no traffic impact or personnel required outside of the vehicle. This project saves the organization money and significantly promotes employee safety.



Mark Croarkin explains how the LiDar Vertical Clearance saves the organization time and money to co-workers.



John Russell (facing) explains how the LED Panic Lights work in Springfield at the Challenge Statewide Showcase.

John Russell, signing and striping maintenance supervisor, won the top award in the statewide tool and equipment category for his LED Panic Lights submission. He also received a \$10,000 check for his innovation.

Russell came up with the idea to mount six white lights on the back of a truck mounted attenuator (TMA) which are activated by a simple click of a switch. The driver can activate the panic lights when a motorist shows signs of possibly running into the TMA. The lights are deactivated when the motorist gets in the proper lane.

"LED Panic Lights improve the safety of MoDOT employees and motorists by reducing the possibility of TMA collisions. Since the lights have been installed, collisions have decreased significantly," said Russell.

Tim Hellebusch and Vince Kaimann, resident engineer and senior construction inspector, were honored for their submission landing in the top four of the statewide winner project category. Their innovations project was 'Raising the Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge.'

Previously, the Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge over Interstate 64 had a vertical clearance of just over 14 and a-half feet. Because of this, the overpass has been struck and repaired numerous times. As part of the Daniel Boone Bridge Project, the Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge was raised approximately two feet. The crews used hydraulic jacks to lift the bridge and precast blocks to support it at its new height. Through this innovation, the bridge was

corrected at a fraction of the cost of a full replacement, and the safety of the corridor was significantly improved.

“These types of innovations are great for our department. They allow us to save money, promote safety and encourages employees to exhibit their creativity. It was great to see that the St. Louis district was so well represented,” said District Engineer, Greg Horn.



Vince Kaimann goes into depth about how raising the Spirit of St. Louis Bridge saved the organization money in the long run.

MoDOT, Trailnet and Metro Partner to Increase Motorist, Bicyclist and Pedestrian Safety

by Shaunda White

Many Missourians rely on walking and bicycling for transportation options. While both provide health, financial, and environmental benefits, they also increase the risk of receiving serious or fatal injuries if involved in a motor vehicle crash.

During May, there is a significant increase in both bicyclists and pedestrians on area roads, so MoDOT, Trailnet and Metro Transit partnered to kick off the “Safe Roads for All” campaign. The campaign emphasizes the need for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to share the road and be aware of each other’s safety.



Officials from MoDOT, Metro, Trailnet and the Metropolitan Police Department complete the safety bicycle ride together on May 1 to emphasize the importance of sharing the road.

Alison Kinderfather, whose Mother was struck by a car while waiting to cross the street, spoke about the importance of pedestrian safety at the event. Her mother suffered debilitating injuries but is now on the road to recovery. Kinderfather would like to keep other families from going through what she and her family have gone through with her Mother.

From 2011 to 2013, pedestrian fatalities accounted for 10 percent of Missouri’s traffic crash fatalities. There were 2,161 people killed during the last three years; 219 were pedestrian fatalities. That is a 2 percent increase in pedestrian deaths from the previous three-year period.

“Pedestrians and bicyclists need to understand that they have primary responsibility for their own safety,” said Greg Horn, MoDOT district engineer for the St. Louis region. “Motorists should always avoid distractions while

driving and give complete attention to the road and its surroundings. We all play a role in sharing the road and making sure that everybody gets to and from their destinations safely.”

A livable community is one that provides safe and convenient transportation choices to all citizens, whether it’s by walking, bicycling, transit, or driving.

“Public transit is a safe and economical means for people to access jobs, schools, medical facilities and recreational venues in our region,” said President and CEO of the Bi-State Development Agency/Metro, John Nations. “Metro passengers use sidewalks and bicycles to access our transit system. It is important for all of us to promote safe and accessible travel for everyone.”

“Roads and sidewalks that are designed for safe, comfortable travel for bicyclists and pedestrians make the roads safer for motorized users as well,” Ann Mack, CEO of Trailnet, said. “When we design and maintain our roads for the most vulnerable user first and foremost, everyone benefits.”

Leaders of the organizations led a safety bicycle ride from the Missouri History Museum to the St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station on May 1 to represent the importance of sharing the road.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014

Southwest District

- Home
- Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

Southwest District at Work



AND THE WINNER IS... -- Customer Service Representative Tonya Staeger (left), Cassville Maintenance Worker Dustin Terry (center) and Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Shannon Kellner draw a winning raffle ticket in support of the district's charitable campaign at the spring maintenance meeting in Monett in April. (Photo/David Mitchell)



'X' MARKS THE SPOT -- Joplin Senior Construction Inspector Marvin Morris (left), District Land Survey Manager Paul Taylor (center) and Joplin Senior Construction Inspector Chris Calandro review plans for a new interchange at Route 171 and Route HH near Carterville prior to surveying the right-of-way. (Photo/David Mitchell)



HERE'S WHAT AN ENGINEER DOES -- District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman talks to fifth graders at Phelps Center for Gifted Education in Springfield about the properties of light as part of a program the school sponsors about career education. (Photo/David Mitchell)



SAFETY FIRST -- Cassville Maintenance Crew Leader Clay Vaught talks about the safe handling of weed control chemicals as part of an upcoming safety video. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Southwest District Focusing on Workplace Safety for All Employees

by David Mitchell

In March of 2014, a Southwest District employee was inspecting a



District Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry (left) demonstrates the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment worn by Monett Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Ozbun in a safety presentation to maintenance workers. (Photo/David Mitchell)

bridge when he slipped on something covered in leaves and injured his left knee. Then in April another employee suffered a facial injury when a piece of metal broke loose while he was hammering a joint on a bridge.

Those are just two reasons why the Southwest District management team is reviewing the district's safety statistics, looking at the causes for workplace injuries.

"We're always looking for ways to prevent injuries, accidents and incidents," said Becky Baltz, District Engineer.

During calendar year 2013, the two biggest causes of injuries on the job in the Southwest District were body strains (e.g., lifting, twisting, repetitive motion, etc.) and being struck by something (e.g., motor vehicle, object being lifted, etc.). Those two categories accounted for 49 injuries, almost equally divided between those two groups.

So far in 2014, the leading cause of injury is slips and falls accounting for 12 injuries, mostly due to winter weather conditions.

For district leadership, those numbers are too high.

"Some injuries happen in an instant, some over time," said Baltz. "You have to be constantly aware of all aspects of safety."

The District's Risk Management office sends frequent messages to employees covering awareness of the dangers of backing vehicles, the proper way to lift objects, having good posture when sitting at one's desk and tick disease prevention among other topics.

Baltz said safety varies from one type of job to the next. It doesn't look the same for an office person as it does for someone on the road.

"If you work in an office, it's a matter of using good posture. Is your chair the right fit for your desk?" said Baltz. "On the road, you have to be aware of where traffic is all the time and be aware of vehicles and equipment."

Regardless of the job, the goal remains the same: to go home safe every day and to have a long, fulfilling and productive career at MoDOT.

Smart Work Zone Part of Route 65 Bridge Replacement Underway Between Ozark and Springfield

by Angela Eden

The Southwest District is taking advantage of "intelligent" technology to help drivers make better choices as they navigate a bridge replacement project in the northbound lanes of Route 65 between Ozark and Springfield.

The "Intelligent Transportation System" or smart work zone is being used as part of the traffic control for the project that is replacing the old northbound Farmer's Branch bridge. The project sits in one of the busiest sections of Route 65.

The smart work zone system uses a series of message boards set up beginning at Christian County Route EE south of Ozark – with other boards located prior to the Route F/Business 65 and the Route 14 interchanges in Ozark. The message boards are all interconnected. The system has sensors in the work zone that can detect when delays are occurring at the bridge project. If the system detects vehicles slowed or stopped, it sends messages to the boards to alert drivers to slowdowns or traffic stops along northbound Route 65 including where the traffic congestion is occurring. When there is no traffic congestion, the boards display safety messages.

District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman says the smart work zone system will help drivers make informed choices..

"The idea is to provide drivers plenty of advanced notice about what's going on ahead," Rickman said. "It allows drivers to choose alternate routes" before they reach the work zone.

The bridge is being replaced one-half at a time. The contractor is building part of the new bridge in the median. Once it is completed, northbound traffic will be shifted to it and the old bridge will be demolished and replaced. The new bridge will be wide enough to accommodate three lanes of traffic when Route 65 is widened to six lanes in the future.

The prime contractor, Pace Construction of St. Louis, working with MoDOT developed a plan to replace the bridge in

stages so both northbound lanes could remain open most of the time and the traffic lanes would not need to be “split” between the southbound and the northbound lanes.

Resident Engineer Johnny Teegardin said the traffic control plan is much better for drivers.

“For one thing you’re not going to split it (traffic),” he said. With the Evans Road interchange just north of the work zone, Teegardin says if traffic were split it would have made it hard for drivers to get through the work zone and then exit to Evans Road. The new plan “made it a lot less confusing,” he said.

During much of the project, the northbound lanes may be narrowed and shifted to one side of the bridge or the other. Nighttime lane closings may be needed at times.

Teegardin said there will be delays at times, but with the “smart” work zone set up and regular traffic alerts sent to local news media and social media, drivers will have plenty of opportunity to use the information to take alternate routes to avoid any potential congestion.

The Farmer’s Branch bridge project is scheduled for completion in late October.

For more info

Jennifer Williams
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Jennifer.Williams@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2014



- Home
- Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

- Archives
- Print Page
- Print Entire Edition

What Would You Like to See?

SE Missourians Provide Input in Planning Process

The Southeast District is asking Missourians what’s important to them. Whether it’s economic growth through investing in Missouri’s infrastructure or improving safety, the SE District wants to know what projects taxpayers would like to see come to fruition.

The district is asking Missourians to provide their feedback by taking a short, 10-minute survey to share their thoughts. The survey has two sections and asks respondents to rank maintenance and construction activities, as well as multiple modes of transportation.

However, it is important to note that there is not currently enough funding for most of these projects. But it is important for the public to share their thoughts about investing the currently limited transportation funds, as well as what could be accomplished if additional funds become available.

The survey is available at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SE_DistrictValues. Please share this with your friends and family!

Photo: Maintenance work includes filling potholes, as shown in the photo to the right, to replacing culverts and partially overlaying the roadway, as well as seasonal operations like mowing and snow removal. Construction includes major improvements, such as four-laning a route to expand connectivity or adding shoulders with rumbles to improve safety.



Southeast District Flooding Issues

This spring, the Southeast District received a bit more than a few April showers. On Monday, April 28, the 25-county region received heavy rainfall, with many of the areas receiving six inches of rain and some reaching up to eight inches.

The heavy downfall left several routes in the Southeast District flooded, primarily in Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, New Madrid, Ripley, Stoddard and Wayne Counties. Maintenance crews worked throughout the conditions to monitor the roadways and closed roadways when necessary to keep the traveling public safe.

In addition to the most recent flooding issues, the Southeast District’s northern counties also received heavy rainfall in early April. On April 4, approximately three inches of rain was received.



Flooding in Cape Girardeau County caused issues with culvert pipes on Route UU near Burfordville. In addition to the heavy rainfall, debris caused back-ups.



April has brought heavy rainfall to Southeast Missouri. The most recent weather event brought up to eight inches of rain to some areas. The photo above is from storms on April 4, which brought approximately three to four inches of rain.

Southeast Missouri Food Bank Letter



As part of the SE District's 100-Year Anniversary celebration, employees made donations to the Sikeston Food Pantry, as well as the Texas County Food Pantry.

Dear Sikeston MoDOT Employees:

Thank you for your recent donation of 169 pounds of food to Southeast Missouri Food Bank. Your support is an inspiration to our staff-ensuring our ability to fulfill our mission and enabling us to feed hungry Southeast Missourians.

Southeast Missouri Food Bank has served our community for over 25 years by providing food and support to over 180 non-profit hunger relief agencies in all 16 counties we serve. In 2013, we distributed over 7.8 million pounds of food and grocery products to our agency partners. As a primary resource of food, we provide a critical safety net to those who rely on our help for the most basic need of feeding their family.

Southeast Missouri Food Bank could not continue the important work we do without support from generous donors like you.

On behalf of the Southeast Missouri Food Bank, I offer our sincere appreciation. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the fight against hunger.

Sincerely,
Karen Green, Executive Director
Southeast Missouri Food Bank

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

